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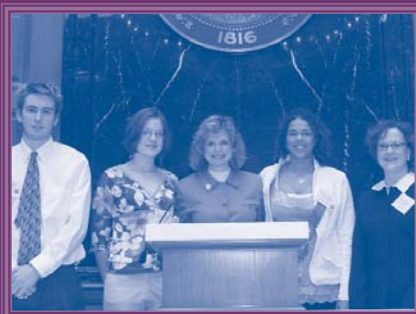
# 2005 Session Highlights



Reps. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington) and Peggy Welch with Lennie Dare and Andy Rogers during the promotion of the restaurant industry in Indiana.



Rep. Welch listens to testimony at a Ways and Means Committee meeting.



Rep. Welch meets with 21st Century Scholars paging at the statehouse.



Rep. Welch and Gene Keady when he was honored this past session.

# State Representative **Peggy Welch**



## Session Report

Dear District 60 Citizen,

Your Indiana representatives and senators completed their work on April 29th. The 2005 session was one of legislators and government officials learning new roles, as we all worked to do the people's business.

During the session, of the 877 bills and resolutions introduced, only 94 were sent to the governor for his consideration. The governor chose to veto three of those measures. Ninety-four bills do not sound like a lot of legislation, but it should be noted that the majority of those 94 bills do not contain just a single idea but have different measures combined into one bill.

After a week's rest, I went back to work at my "real" job. Within two hours of being at work at Bloomington Hospital, one of my cancer patients died, and I had the privilege of assisting the family as they worked through the immediate pain. This was a great reminder to me that there are bigger and more pressing issues in the lives of Hoosiers than what bills passed in the legislature.

Though the General Assembly is not in session again until January 2006, I continue to work daily on legislative issues and problems. It is my hope that I will see you at the fairs, festivals, and parades in the district, as well as my community meetings that I will host in the fall. It is important to me that I hear your thoughts on issues and concerns of the state.

Inside this report is a brief description of just some of the bills that were passed during the session. Some I voted for and some I did not. If you have questions about these or any bills that were passed or considered, please let me hear from you. Also, you can get more information on legislation by going to [www.in.gov/legislative](http://www.in.gov/legislative).

It is my hope that you and your family have a safe and fun summer and fall.

Sincerely,

*Peggy Welch*

## Representative Peggy Welch

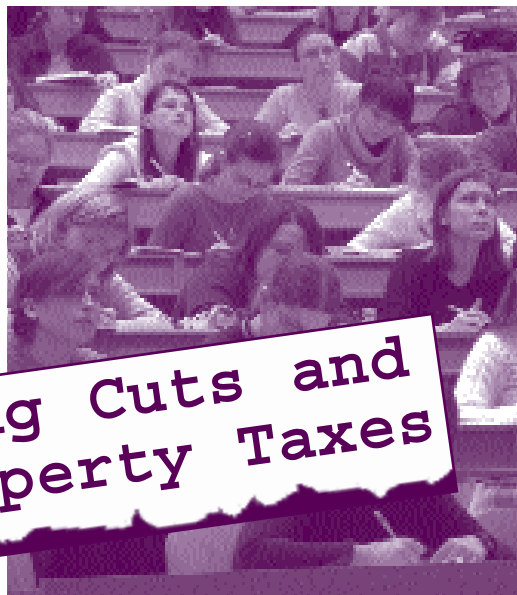
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# INDIANA'S NEW BUDGET

## School Funding Cuts and Increased Property Taxes



The new state budget that passed by a narrow margin increases property taxes and, at the same time, cuts funding for local schools. After years of bipartisan efforts to reform education and reduce property taxes, the majority party has approved a budget that will cut state funding for many schools and raise property taxes by nearly \$850 million.

I voted "NO" on the final version of the state budget because of the negative impact it will have on education, children, and those who pay property taxes. I believe there will be many victims of the new state budget.

There are no minimum guarantees in state funding for schools, which means many school corporations will receive less money. Those corporations will be forced into eliminating teachers, cutting programs and increasing class sizes. Any additional funding for schools will come primarily from raising local property taxes.

There will be reduced state support through the Property Tax Replacement Credit (PTRC)—another move that will increase local property taxes. This eliminates the promise of just three years ago to provide more state support to combat rising property taxes in light of the historic and controversial statewide reassessment.

**"I believe there will be many victims of the new state budget."**

In addition, funding for the program that provides health care for our low-income individuals, elderly, disabled, and children will increase by only five percent, although bipartisan

experts have predicted a 10-percent growth. Also, state assistance for local road repairs and improvements will decrease as well.

It is a shame that the legacy of this session will be a budget that turns its back on Indiana's schoolchildren and property taxpayers.

Rep. Welch and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman recognize Monroe County students who won state and national media production awards. Their teacher is Jeff Rudkin, Batchelor Middle School.

# 2005 Legislation Passed Into Law



Below is a listing and brief explanation of just a few of the bills that have been signed into Indiana law. For a complete listing, you may go to [www.in.gov/legislative](http://www.in.gov/legislative) or contact me.

## Education

- HB 1001**—Changes kindergarten start date to August.
- HB 1794**—Affects student suspension and expulsion cases; school drop-out consequences; a school's graduation rate.
- SB 200**—Requires students to graduate with Core 40 curriculum, with exceptions provided.
- SB 285**—Defines and prohibits "bullying."
- SB 296**—Establishes Ivy Tech as the community college system of Indiana.
- SB 332**—Requires in all public classrooms: Pledge of Allegiance, display of US flag and moment of silence. Allows for voluntary compliance by students.

## Government Reorganization

- The bills listed below provide for new or reorganized Indiana government agencies:
- HB 1003**—Indiana Economic Development Commission
- HB 1008**—Dept. of Agriculture and Office of Rural Affairs
- HB 1137**—Office of Technology
- HB 1501**—Office of Inspector General
- SB 56**—Homeland Security
- SB 335**—Office of Tourism
- SB 529**—Department of Child Services

## Government

- HB 1004**—Grants tax amnesty for late payers.
- HB 1032**—Requires use of biodiesel fuels in state vehicles—when feasible.
- HB 1052**—Requires additional auditing of lottery by State Board of Accounts.
- HB 1063**—Interim committee to study certain eminent domain issues. I have asked that eminent domain issues affecting I-69 corridor residents be included.
- HB 1073**—Multiple Bureau of Motor Vehicle changes, including: authorization of BMV to determine driver's continued fitness to be able to drive; extends expiration of licenses to six years; requires

- filing of accident report with BMV rather than state police; removes authority to issue licenses by mail or electronic service.
- HB 1120**—Provides financing for Indianapolis to build a new football stadium and expand its convention center.
- HB 1358**—Repeals requirement that a female have a test for rubella before applying for marriage license.
- HB 1431**—Provides a permanent funding source for the clean water act.
- SB 100**—Allows local units of government more flexibility in use of county option income tax revenue.
- SB 217**—Raises speed limits on state roads and highways.
- SB 379**—Restricts the shipping of cigarettes to Indiana residents.
- SB 483**—Requires that at all voting polling places a government-issued ID be presented to be eligible to cast a ballot.
- SB 503**—Prohibits state government from releasing Social Security numbers, except under certain conditions.

## Health

- HB 1075**—Allows insurance companies to issue comprehensive health insurance coverage, while waiving coverage of specified conditions.
- HB 1098**—Provides for licensure of home care/attendant services.
- HB 1306**—Provides for independent living services for disabled and handicapped citizens.
- SB 286**—Prohibits the state and state institutions from participating in human cloning activities.
- SB 568**—Requires birthing centers and abortion clinics to be licensed by the state.
- SB 572**—Provides for Medicaid coverage of certain family planning services for designated women.

## Military

- HB 1022**—Protects Crane from encroachment issues and establishes the Military Base Planning Council.
- HB 1219**—Protects members of military from being charged excessive car insurance premiums compared to non-military persons.
- SB 304**—Affects tuition assistance for Indiana National Guard members and their families.
- SB 419**—Facilitates easier voting by military and overseas voters.
- SB 571**—Promotes economic development at Crane.

## Miscellaneous

- HB 1153**—Numerous changes in laws affecting inheritance issues.
- HB 1217**—Provides for release of certain adoption records.
- HB 1141**—Creates two new Monroe County courts.
- SB 49**—Prohibits certain uses of spyware and recognizes computer crime.
- SB 77**—Allows unpaid towing service provider to sell towed vehicles.
- SB 92**—Prohibits internet gambling and makes it a Class D felony to be an operator of internet gaming.
- SB 127**—Requires Indiana to observe Daylight-Saving Time throughout the state.

## Safety

- HB 1057**—Establishes a penalty for passengers of a motor vehicle if they have an open alcoholic beverage container.
- HB 1150**—Establishment of procedures for missing endangered adults.
- HB 1241**—Allows collection of DNA samples from felons.
- HB 1580**—Prohibits a private employer from disciplining an employee who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer EMT who is late due to an emergency call.
- HB 1776**—Allows the seizure and holding of weapons from a person considered to be dangerous.
- SB 32**—Clarifies who may have a handgun license.
- SB 117**—Allows Indiana law enforcement to have involvement in airport security.
- SB 164**—Expands who must register for the sex offender registry.
- SB 175**—Tightens up requirements of home detention programs.
- SB 230**—Provides for additional notification of registered sex and violent crime offenders to neighborhood groups and improves notification to registered victims of crime.
- SB 444**—Provides for tighter controls on ingredients used in the making of methamphetamine.

## Small Business

- HB 1265 and HB 1822**—Provides assistance to small businesses when rules are made affecting the businesses and works to control over-regulation of small businesses.

